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***DEATHS DUE TO FIREARMS: 2002***

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The Medical Examiner is responsible for investigating all deaths due to firearms that occur in King County. Medical Examiner data relate primarily to the victim because information regarding the weapon and the shooter is often unknown. The following data are specific to the victims of firearm deaths.

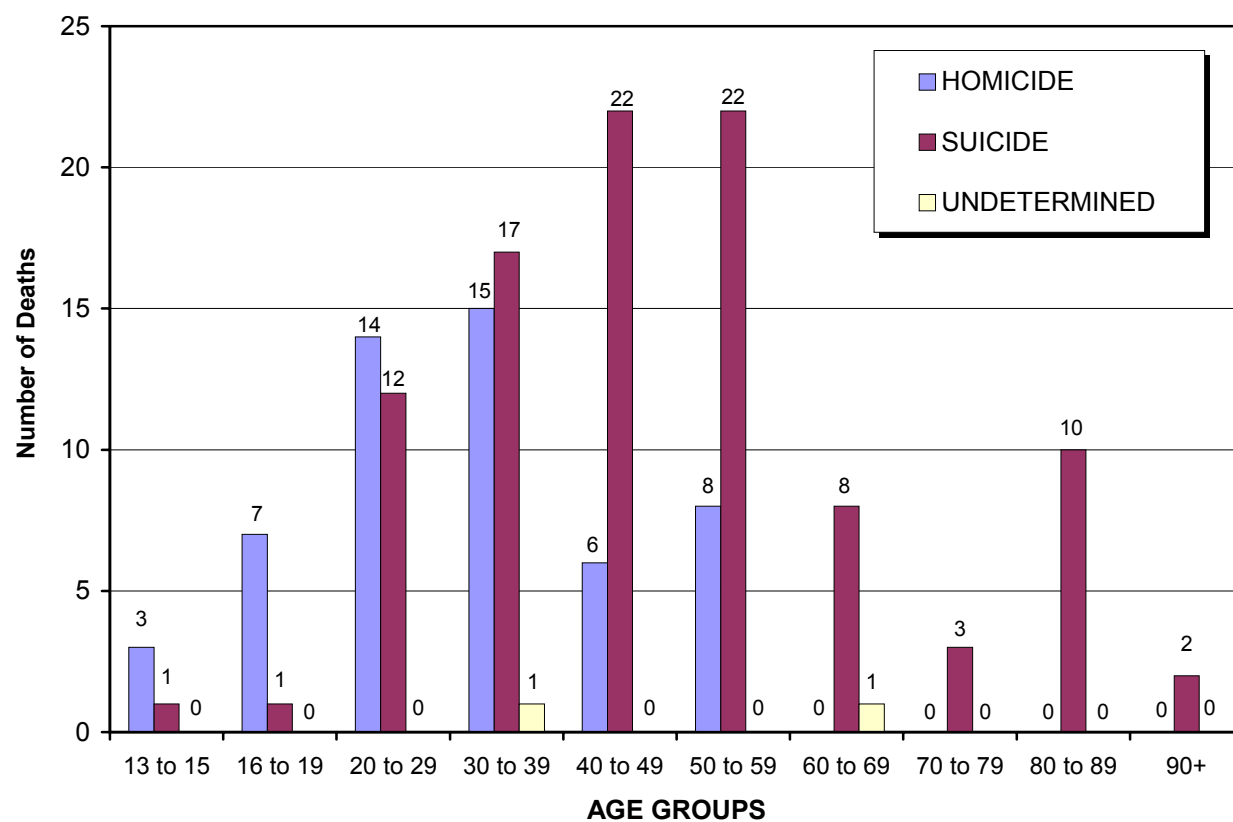
In 2002, there were 153 firearm deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner. In 2001 and in 2000, there were 128 firearm deaths, 161 in 1999, and 154 in 1998. Of the 153 deaths in 2002, 53 (35%) were homicides and 98 (64%) were suicides. As in 2001, 2000 and in 1999, there were no accidental firearm deaths in 2002. In 2002, gunshot wounds were the leading cause of death for homicides and suicides. In 2002 gunshot deaths comprised 58% (53/92) of homicides, compared to 58% (43/74) in 2001, 53% (39/73) in 2000, and 58% (52/89) in 1999. In 2002, suicides by firearms represented 49% (98/200) of suicide deaths compared to 46% (85/183) in 2001, 49% (87/178) in 2000, and 48% (106/221) in 1999.

Of the 53 2002 gunshot homicide victims, 23% (12/53) were 19 years old and younger. A disproportionate number of gunshot homicides were Black (32%, 17/53) compared to the percentage of Blacks in the general population. Of the 17 Black gunshot homicide victims, 35% (6/17) were males between 20 and 29 years of age. In comparison, 45% (24/53) of the homicide gunshot victims were White. Of the 24 White homicide victims, 21% (5/24) were males between 16 and 29 years old.

Firearms were also the most common mode of committing suicide (49%, 98/200). Of the 98 gunshot suicide victims, 90% (88/98) were white and 88% (86/98) were males. Two of the gunshot suicide victims were 19 years old and under. Twenty-nine (30%) of the gunshot suicide victims were between the ages of 20 and 39 years of age, 44 (45%) between 40 and 59 years, and 23 (23%) were 60 years and older.

**Table 10-1 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Age, and Gender**

AGE GROUP/ GENDER	MANNER OF DEATH				SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	A	H	S	U		
13-15 years	0	3	1	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	2	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	1	0	2	
16-19 years	0	7	1	0		8
<i>Male</i>	0	7	1	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
20-29 years	0	14	12	0		26
<i>Male</i>	0	12	12	0	24	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	0	0	2	
30-39 years	0	15	17	1		33
<i>Male</i>	0	12	13	0	25	
<i>Female</i>	0	3	4	1	8	
40-49 years	0	6	22	0		28
<i>Male</i>	0	3	18	0	21	
<i>Female</i>	0	3	4	0	7	
50-59 years	0	8	22	0		30
<i>Male</i>	0	7	19	0	26	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	3	0	4	
60-69 years	0	0	8	1		9
<i>Male</i>	0	0	8	1	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
70-79 years	0	0	3	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	3	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
80-89 years	0	0	10	0		10
<i>Male</i>	0	0	10	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
90+	0	0	2	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	2	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>153</b>

**Graph 10-1 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death and Age**

**Table 10-2 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Race, and Gender**

RACE/ GENDER	MANNER OF DEATH				SUB	
	A	H	S	U	TOTAL	TOTAL
Asian	0	7	3	0		10
<i>Male</i>	0	6	3	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
Black	0	17	2	0		19
<i>Male</i>	0	15	2	0	17	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	0	0	2	
Native American	0	2	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	2	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
White	0	24	88	2		114
<i>Male</i>	0	17	77	1	95	
<i>Female</i>	0	7	11	1	19	
Other	0	3	5	0		8
<i>Male</i>	0	3	4	0	7	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>153</b>